



ATLANTA MUNICIPAL COURT

170 Garnett Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3612

(404) 865-8100/Fax (404) 658-6859

Honorable Barbara A. Harris
Chief Judge

Paula Young Ables, M.A., J.D.
Clerk/Administrator

Honorable Howard R. Johnson
Judge
Honorable Clinton E. Deveaux
Judge
Honorable Andrew A. Mickle
Judge
Honorable Catherine E. Malicki
Judge
Honorable Elaine L. Carlisle
Judge
Honorable Deborah S. Greene
Judge
Honorable William F. Riley, Jr.
Judge
Honorable Herman L. Sloan
Judge

May 2, 2003

PRESS RELEASE

Panel concerning the Atlanta Municipal Court and the City Court of Atlanta

At the outset, we wish to commend the Review Panel for its insightful and thorough "process review" within the allotted time.

The judges of the Municipal Court are uniformly in favor of the recommendation to consolidate with the City Court of Atlanta (Traffic Court) and look forward to negotiating an expeditious transition to perform judicial responsibilities efficiently and effectively as mandated by law.

We especially applaud the leadership and extraordinary vision of Mayor Franklin in involving executive, legislative and judicial officials and the private bar in a collaborative court reform effort. Atlanta is on the front end of a national trend of unification of courts and streamlining operations in light of budgeting constraints.

Our judges are fortunate to enjoy the collegiality of each other and the respect and confidence of the Judicial Review Panel, governing officials, and the electorate. We greatly appreciate the Review Panel's recognition of the intrinsic value and importance of specialized courts and judicial independence in American jurisprudence in general, and the significance of Atlanta Municipal Court's programmatic excellence, in particular.

Further, the clarity of the blue- print for re-organization and the specificity therein facilitate speedy accomplishment of the defined tasks. For example, the usage of Judges Pro Hac Vice dramatically decreased as the caseload diminished and judicial cooperation increased. Given the tenure and talent of the Municipal Court's jurists and staff, this difficult but well defined task will proceed forthwith for the benefit of the citizens of Atlanta.

Barbara A. Harris,
Chief Judge